



Prisoners' Harbor,  
Santa Cruz Island.

CALIFORNIA'S

# Islands of Mystery

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*Executive Secretary*

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS and BEACHES

**I**NHABITED for ages, once heavily populated, discovered by Cabrillo nearly four centuries ago, yet practically unknown to probably more than two million of the two and a quarter million people of Los Angeles County, seven, at least, of the eight channel islands off the shores of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties are truly islands of mystery.

The eighth, Santa Catalina, has become known through its development as a resort. Remnants of submerged mountain ranges, rising again from the sea, these eight bits of land offshore are at times invisible, and again as many as six of them appear at one time. At times dim shapes in the haze, again they are so near that Wm. Wrigley's home at Avalon may be seen from the hills of San Pedro and the canyons of Santa Cruz show clear-cut from Ventura, while the great cliffs of Anacapa stand so sheer that they seem to be the weird mirage that occasionally distorts Santa Catalina into fantastic shapes.

From the summit of the Latigo Canyon Road, leading from the Coast Highway west of Malibu Canyon to Ventura Boulevard, the frequently seen panorama of six of the islands indicates their position almost better than could a map. To the west are seen Anacapa, southwest of Point Mugu, and the great bulk of Santa Cruz beyond, which itself hides Santa Rosa and San Miguel, the latter almost due south of Point Conception. These four stretch east and west, a mountain range, with the Santa Barbara Channel as the valley between them and the mainland.

Far out to the south lies tiny Santa Barbara Island, and southwest of it, desolate San Nicolas, while to the southeast is Santa Catalina, south of San Pedro, and twenty miles farther south, San Clemente.

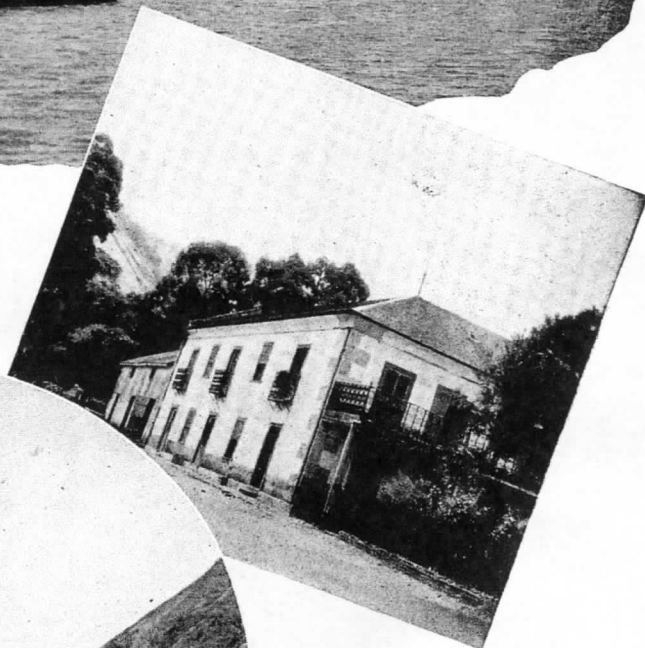
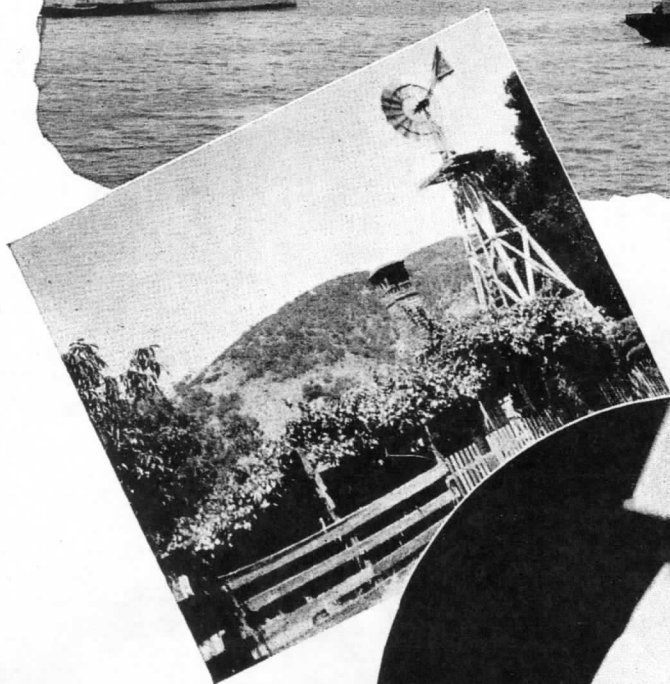
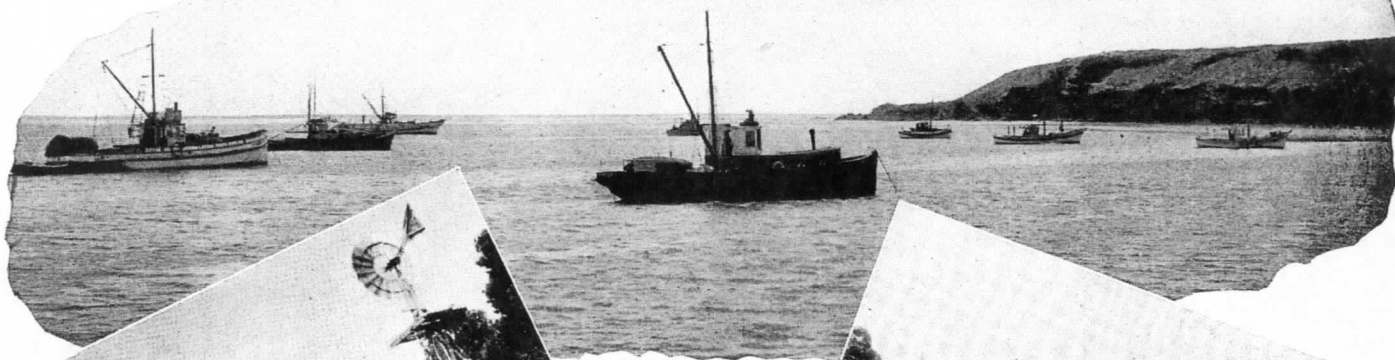
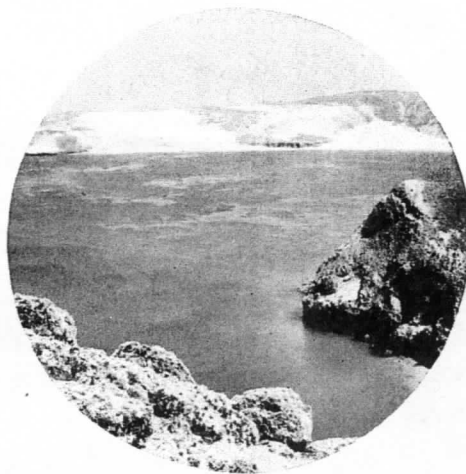
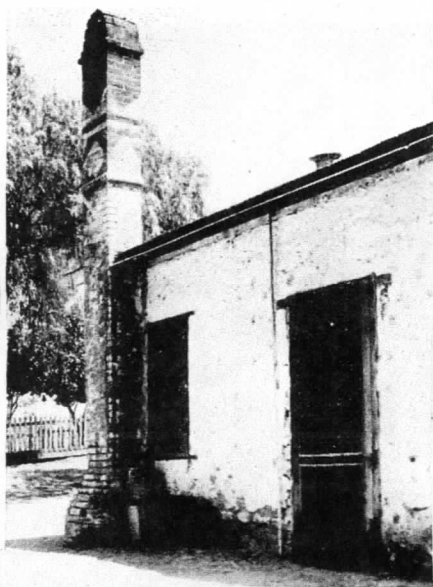
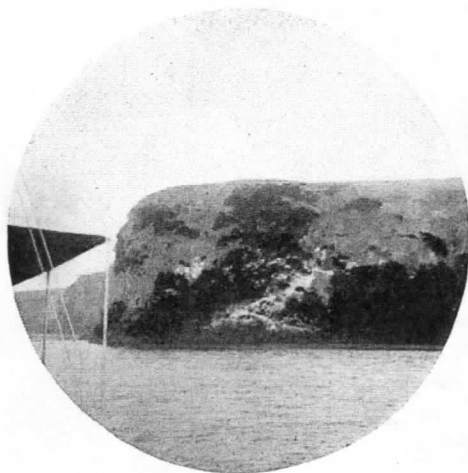
Bathed by the warm Kuro Shiwo, the current from Japan which produces the balmy climate of Santa Catalina, these islands are, nevertheless, not the tropical jungles of South Sea fiction. For the

most part barren and with treeless hills, many of their canyons and valleys, of themselves, hold less of interest than most of the mainland. Others, such as those carved from the lava of San Clemente, or filled with indigenous trees on Santa Cruz, are of great charm and interest. The Bay and valley of Avalon are known the world over, while similar possibilities exist at a number of other places among the islands.

**B**UT while the glory of the islands from the mainland is in their changing mystery, from close at hand it is in their incomparable shore lines. Vast cliffs, gently washed by summer waves or battered by charging breakers of sterner seas, characterize much of the shore lines of the islands.

Carved by wind and rain into cameos of the erosion of the ages, and undercut by ocean caves uncounted and unexplored in their myriad profusion, these cliffs offer never ending attraction

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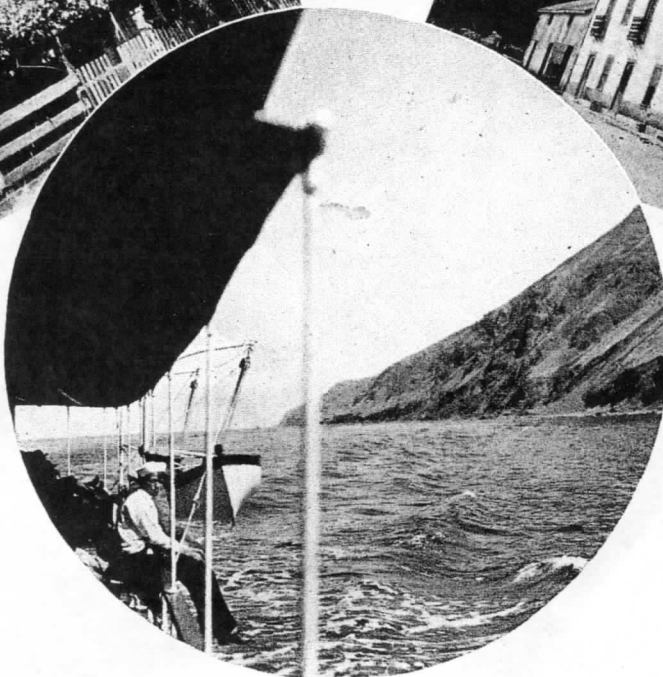


Left: Along the shore of Santa Cruz Island.

Center: Ranch Building, Justinian Caire Ranch, Santa Cruz Island.

Right: Cuyler's Harbor, San Miguel.

Center: Fishing boats in Smugglers' Cove, southeast end of San Clemente Island.



Left: One of the ranch buildings on Santa Cruz Island.

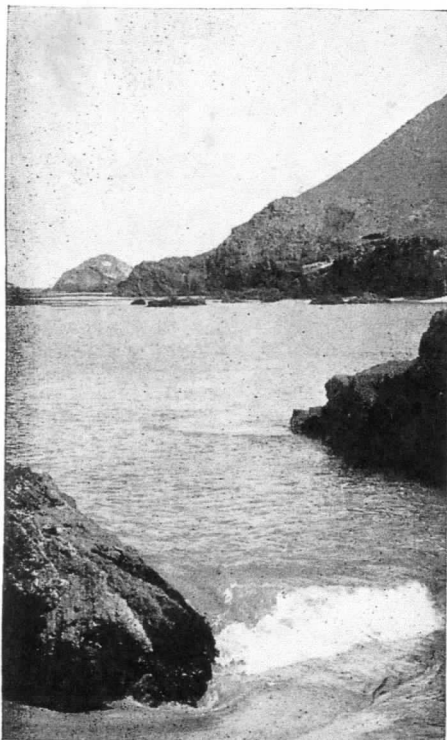
Ranch house, Prisoners' Harbor, Santa Cruz Island.

Near southeast end of San Clemente Island.

## Islands of Mystery

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to those who take the highways of the sea to view them—highways unmarred by billboards, unlined by business lots and uncongested by traffic.



Near Cuyler's Harbor, San Miguel

Increasing multitudes will learn of the unusual beauty of a trip among the islands, particularly as Southern California shall develop her yachting possibilities. With ultimately seven yacht harbors from Santa Barbara to Newport Bay, travel among the islands will become one of the great recreational attractions of the Los Angeles region.

These possibilities were clearly felt by a party of seventeen who last month visited the islands under the auspices of the Citizens' Committee on Parks, Playgrounds and Beaches. The party included Arthur S. Bent, former President of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Dr. George P. Clements, Manager of the Agricultural Department of the Chamber; W. S. Taylor of the California Botanic Garden; Frank L. Walton, President of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce; Daniel R. Hull of the State Park survey. Geo. Gibbs, associated with Frederick Law Olmsted; William J. Fox, Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission; Dr. Spencer Atkinson; E. F. Underhill, Chas. G. Adams, Ralph Cornell, Hugh R. Romero, Secretary of the Citizens' Committee on Parks, Playgrounds and

Beaches, Wilford E. Jost, Research Department, Chamber of Commerce, and others. Mr. Bent and Mr. Underhill are members of the Executive Committee of the Citizens' Committee.

Leaving Wilmington at 10 P. M., the party awakened next morning off Anacapa, a series of narrow, rocky ridges of less than a thousand acres in total extent, and after cruising along its south side, lay to for breakfast in Smugglers' Cove, a beautiful little harbor on the east end of Santa Cruz. Some time was spent in examining the marvellous shore line of Santa Cruz from this point along practically the entire north side of the is-

land. The party was greeted in places by the barking of thousands of sea lions.

Anchoring in Prisoners' Harbor, several hours were spent in going to the interior of Santa Cruz, visiting the Justinian Caire Ranch, with its beautiful old farm buildings. Near Prisoners' Harbor the hills are well wooded with a species of pine. Santa Cruz is about sixty thousand acres in extent.

The night was spent in Becher's Bay, Santa Rosa, a smaller island than Santa Cruz. It, too, possesses a striking shore line and has some trees in places and, while appearing sandy and bar-

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## California's Islands of Mystery

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ren, in reality provides excellent pasturage over most of its surface. The next afternoon was spent in Cuyler's Harbor, San Miguel. With Prince Island guarding the entrance, flanked by rocky promontories, and lined with hills over which seem to flow rivers of sand, this little bay is probably the most picturesque among the islands. San Miguel is a small island, almost entirely barren. It is supposed that Cabrillo was buried on San Miguel. Some have wondered at the choice of a last resting place which is generally so dreary and frequently stormy, as against fairer Santa Catalina, for instance. But it may be asked, as the great explorer took his last journey, would he not wish to turn his face to the path of the setting sun on this the most westerly of the island group he knew so well!

SEVERAL hours were spent on San Miguel, picking among the huge areas covered by the remains of the long-vanished inhabitants. For more than a century the winds have covered and uncovered the abandoned camp sites, which remain as vast kitchen middens, with the accumulated shells and bones of generations of camp fires. A number of interesting Indian relics were found, including pestles, various bone and stone implements, arrowheads, metate, grave-stone, etc.

Santa Barbara and San Nicolas Islands were passed in the night, while next day almost a complete circuit was made of San Clemente, which is but little smaller than Santa Catalina. These two belong to Los Angeles County. The ocean side of San Clemente is entirely barren, with half a dozen successive parallel benches testifying to ancient beach lines. Anchor was dropped in Smugglers' Cove at the

southeast end of the island. Several fishing boats in the harbor made an attractive picture, while a whaling vessel and its killing boats gave a businesslike appearance to the scene.

Some of the group landed, which was accomplished with a little difficulty owing to the exposed nature of the har-



Ranch yard on Santa Cruz Island

bor. Several climbed into the hills above the harbor, among cactus so thick that it seemed almost prehensile in its readiness to become attached to a person.

The landward side of San Clemente is of striking interest, by far the finest bit of shore line on the entire trip being seen for some distance around from the

southeast end. Great lava cliffs, carved by wind, sea and storm, stand turretted and castellated, with their bases pierced by ocean caves. Toyon, sumac, and other native shrubs occupy some of the canyons, while in many places the detritus slopes seem to hang as great mantles from the cliffs above.

Sailing around the familiar southeast end of Santa Catalina, past Avalon, and arriving at Wilmington, the party felt that in their brief introduction to the charms of the islands they had had revealed to them a new land. All but three of the islands, Santa Catalina, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa, are property of the United States Government. In the multitude of ways in which they will become of increasing interest to the people of Southern California, they will stand, with their varied and ever-changing appeal, still the islands of mystery.

## New Mexico's Highways

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Southern Pacific, with a line connecting the two running from north to south, down the Rio Grande Valley. But the feeders of these two lines are not little branch lines as are found in the East. Rather, roads are the means by which the railroad can pick up its trade and traffic. Thus the condition of the roads, the contemplated building of roads, the type of road are major considerations in nearly every business deal.

The prosperity New Mexico is enjoying is due largely to the degree of excellence with which she has built her roads to date. The future is definitely dependent on them. She is dependent on them not only for business expansion but for her greatest need of all—people.

Last year a little over a quarter of a million foreign cars entered the state. They carried slightly over seven hundred thousand people. This number is increasing this year according to information gathered by the state highway department and camp ground proprietors. Over three of the major trunk lines of travel, highways 80, 85 and 86, 75 per cent or more of the eastbound foreign motor cars were from California. Of the entire number which entered the state last year, 17 per cent were from California.

Just as California frankly looks upon the visitors who enter the state as business assets, so does New Mexico. These people spent sixteen million dollars while they were here. Roads brought them, roads were their chief interest while here, roads were the interest of the merchants purveying to them.

Today all of the major trunk lines of the state are in fit condition for both

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